the "hawk boy," and ready to be carried away at the shortest notice. This, however, was a combination of workmen, who had instituted these proceedings from vindictive motives, in consequence of their having been dismissed for drunkenness and neglect; a course of proceeding which he hoped would meet with no encouragement at the hands of the Court.

Mr. Randall then called Mr. Houston, who positively denied Fairburn's statement. Mr. Row, Gloucester-road, Camden-town, and Mr. Brown, of George-street, Euston-square, and several other tradesmen, of many years' standing and respectability, also swore that no such system ever existed as that deposed to by the plaintiff.

His Honour observed that he was perfectly satisfied with the reply to the plaint, and gave judgment for the defendant.

The case excited considerable interest, and the court was crowded during the inquiry with masters and workmen.

Books.

Industrial Investment and Emigration; being a Treatise on Benefit Building Societies, and on the General Principles of Associations for Land Investment and Colonization, with an Appendix on Compound Interest, Tontines, and Life Assurance. By ARTHUR SCRATCHLEY, M.A., Actuary to the Western Life Assurance Society. Second edition, much enlarged. Parker, West Strand. 1851.

WE have no doubt that Mr. Scratchley's book is by far the best that has yet been written on building societies; but having already recorded our opinion of its merits (vide Vol. VIII. p. 92), we need only now express our satisfaction in learning that a great number of terminating societies have been converted into permanent associations, as recommended by Mr. Scratchley, and that there appears to be a good prospect of the abolition of those false principles, by means of which so much mischief has been done by building societies. As many of our readers know, we have, from the very outset, expressed our want of confidence in the system on which these societies were established. We hope the time is at hand when this feeling will no longer exist, and when we can conscientiously advocate the principles of a class of institutions capable of elevating the working classes as provident and independent beings, and of doing them otherwise a great amount of good. The enlargement of the scope of Mr. Scratchley's book and other improvements are noted in the title already quoted in full.

A Treatise on a Box of Instruments and the Slide Rule, for the use of Engineers and others, Schools, &c. By THOMAS KENTISH. Second edition. Relfe and Fletcher, 15, Cloak-lane.

THE fact that this is a useful little book is substantially adduced by the demand for a second edition, which appears to have been for some time published. The impressions now on sale contain a figure of the magnetic compass card and an appendix.

Advice to Builders, Buyers, and Renters of Houses. By Mr. J. S. ERLAM, Architect. London: Shoberl, 1851.

THIS work is much too *jejune* to be of any real service, and is written in a shambling style, ill calculated to support the claim which Mr. Erlam rightly sets up for the "educated architect." We should have passed it by in prudence to giving a damaging notice of it (as we have often done in other cases), but being pressed in more than one quarter for an opinion, are forced to this expression of it. A careful revision, and a little industry, would make it a useful volume.

SCOTCH SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—A *conversazione* was held on 3rd instant in the hall of the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh, where a large but select company crowded the rooms, and a great variety of articles of a national and other archæological interest was exhibited.

Miscellanea.

BIRMINGHAM BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.—The borough baths and washhouses in Kent-street, Birmingham, are making rapid progress towards completion. The building is of brick, with stone dressings, style Elizabethan. The baths are divided into two classes. A new patent porcelain has been used in fitting up some of them. There are thirteen first-class baths for males, and twenty-four second-class, in one department, with a private plunge-bath, 17 feet long by 15 feet wide. The charge for the first-class bath will be 6d., for the second, 3d. A long corridor leading from the main entrance leads to a swimming bath, about 89 feet long and 34 feet broad, with a depth of water graduating from 7 feet to 4 feet. The temperature is to be regulated. It is surrounded by twenty-two dressing-rooms, and roofed with glass. The female department is on the opposite side of the building, but corresponds in all respects with the male; except that there are only seven first-class baths, and eight second. The washing department has separated stalls and every other convenience. The cost of erection is about 10,000*l.*

VALUE OF LONDON PROPERTY.—On the 14th inst. Messrs. Calf and Reid sold various leasehold and freehold estates and other property, amongst which were the following:—

Leasehold.	*Annual rent.*	*Annual Ground rents*	*Term of leases.*	*Price.*
No. 33, Hill-street,	50*l.*	6*l.* 6*s.*	87 yrs.	405*l.*
No. 33, "	50*l.*	8*l.* 8*s.*	87 "	460*l.*
No. 7, "	52*l.* 10*s.*	10*l.* 0*s.*	87 "	810*l.*
No. 134, New Bond-street, (Shop, &c.) lease renewable for ever on fine of 60*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*	230*l.* 0*s.*	6*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*	14 "	3,200*l.*
No. 8, Albany-street, Regent's-park, with premises, No. 47, Little Albany-street,	...	15*l.* 0*s.*	99 "	1,500*l.*
Nos. 7 and 10, William-street, Regent's-park,	74*l.* 0*s.*	12*l.* 0*s.*	97½ "	975*l.*
No. 25, South Audley-street, Grosvenor-square;	154*l.* 0*s.*	30*l.* 0*s.*	...	930*l.*
No. 13, Little Compton-street, (let in rooms),	90*l.* 7*s.*	10*l.* 0*s.*	12½ "	275*l.*
Freehold.				
No. 11, Old Bond-street (Shop, &c.),	200*l.* and premium,		21	5,150*l.*
No. 8, George-street, Hanover-square, with leasehold ground at corn rent,	260*l.* 0*s.*	...	...	3,800*l.*

ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY OF NORTHAMPTON.—A committee meeting was held on April 8th. Mr. James stated that he had received communications from the Dean of Ely, and other friends of the late Marquis of Northampton, respecting some memorial to his lordship, and that a meeting should shortly be convened in London to consider the subject. The Cambrian Archæological Society was taken into union for the interchange of reports, notices, &c. It was resolved that, unless circumstances led to an alteration, the joint meeting with the Warwickshire Archæological and Natural History Society, to be held at Coventry, should take place on Tuesday, May 20th. The Mayor of Coventry has granted St. Mary's Hall for the meeting, and agreed to preside. The report of the sub-committee, respecting the restoration of the ancient painted glass from Aldwinkle St. Peter's (which glass fortunately fell into the hands of Sir George Robinson, who has kindly placed it in the hands of the society for restitution to its original place), was read and adopted. The list of architects and church artificers will be shortly placed in the hands of members of the society, as well as the volume of reports and papers.

THE MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—The north wing of this building, to the rearing of which Jenny Lind sang to the tune of 2,500*l.*, has now been erected, at an entire cost of 14,000*l.* In plan it nearly corresponds with the south wing on the opposite side of the building, the main difference being that there is a sunk area around it. The centre of the front is occupied by a portico to make it correspond with the front of the centre and the front of the south wing. This portico is a copy in its main details of that attached to the Ionic temple of Ilissus at Athens. The entire length of the front of the wing, taking it from the extreme ends, one facing Parker-street at the back, the other to the front, facing Piccadilly, is nearly 60 feet; the width 57 feet, and the entire height of the building from the cellar floor to the top of the entablature is 50 feet. The exterior is of smooth stone, and the back of white brick, the area having a coping of dressed stone. It comprises a basement, a first floor, and two storeys above that, the arrangements of all being similar in one particular,—a corridor, 9 feet wide, extending from one end to the other, giving a length of 60 yards; and the rooms, all 20 feet wide, are arranged on both sides of it. They are all arched and fire-proof, the floors of stone and the ceilings of iron, with ventilating arrangements between floor above and ceiling below. The new work commences about 60 feet from the centre of the old structure in front. Mr. Lane is the architect. By the erection of the two wings a spacious quadrangle has been formed, covering an area of 123 feet from wing to wing, and 136 feet from the back to Parker-street.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.—A monthly court was held last week, when a rate was ordered on the western division of the Westminster sewers, of 6d. in the pound, and 2nd and 16th of May next appointed for hearing appeals against the same.—In connection with the late fatal accident in Great Scotland-yard, a claim for compensation, on the part of Messrs. Robins, Astor, and Co. was made on the commissioners for injury sustained. Mr. Shaw was appointed to act as arbitrator on behalf of the commission.—A public urinal and water-closet was ordered to be erected in Covent-garden-market, at an expense of 150*l.* New works were ordered in connection with various sewers.——In reply to a question in the Commons, put by Sir Benjamin Hall, Lord Ebrington said that it was quite true that 91,000*l.* had been received,—that 7,635*l.* had been expended in works, and 21,000*l.* in the expenses of management and superintendence; but that it should be remembered that the commission was a body both for collecting and for expending, and the machinery for collection was both complicated and expensive. Out of the 21,000*l.* upwards of 3,500*l.* were traceable, not to the expenditure of the commission, but to the collection of the rates, to enable them to carry on the works. It was also right to add, that in the charge for management there was the expenditure for preparing specifications for works to the extent of 170,000*l.* and for which the contracts would have been taken, if the wording of the Act of Parliament had not been defective. The commission, he added, ought not to be blamed for that.

THE PROTECTION OF DESIGNS EXTENSION ACT.—The chief points of the new Act are:—1. Any new invention, proper for letters patent, may be exhibited at any place certified by the Board of Trade, and yet entitle the inventor to subsequent letters patent, provided there be no other public exhibition or use. The inventor to be allowed to contract for the sale of his right to the invention; and no publication in any catalogue, newspaper, &c., to affect the validity of the letters patent: patents may be dated as early as the day of provisional registration. 2. The Attorney-General, or deputies, to examine descriptions of new inventions, and give certificate of approval. 3. The Registrar of Designs to register this certificate, and give certificate of registration. 4. Inventions to be marked "*provisionally registered.*" 5. Provisional registration to confer the same rights, &c., as provisional registration of designs. 6. Designs known abroad may be provisionally registered and protected, provided no public sale, or exposure for sale, has taken place.

ROMAN CATHOLIC HALL AT LIVERPOOL.—An extensive building, to be devoted to religious and charitable purposes, and, when occasion requires, to the holding of meetings, is projected by the Liverpool Roman Catholics. A committee is in process of formation for the procuring of subscriptions and the purchase of ground. The building, it is estimated, will cost about 7,000*l.*, to be raised partly by small shares.

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